



STATE OF ARKANSAS

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March 30, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORK INJURIES AND ILLNESSES BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS 2003

Sprains and strains accounted for 41% of the work-related injuries and illnesses that required recuperation away from work in Arkansas for 2003. This finding is from a survey conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Announced today, the 2003 results present the state data on the characteristics of serious nonfatal injuries and illnesses. The number and frequency of these cases were released in December of 2004 and show a reduction in cases for the eleventh consecutive year. The following tables give the demographics of workers disabled, the nature of the disabling condition, and the event and source producing that condition.

Contact with objects and equipment was the leading event for injuries and illnesses with 22.2% for 2003. The leading source of injuries and illnesses for 2003 was floors, walkways, and ground surfaces, with over 17%.

(See Table 5)

Men accounted for 64.5% of the work-related injuries and illnesses for 2003. The age group of 35 to 44 accounted for most of the injuries and illnesses by age group, with 27.2%. The range of 1 to 5 years in the length of service with an employer had the most injuries and illnesses for the twelfth year in a row.

(See Table 3)

For occupations see Table 10. **NOTE:** BEGINNING WITH THE 2003 REFERENCE YEAR, THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS STARTED USING THE STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (SOC) FOR OCCUPATIONS. BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BREAK IN SERIES, USERS ARE ADVISED AGAINST MAKING COMPARISONS BETWEEN 2003 OCCUPATIONS AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

The Arkansas Department of Labor, OSH/CFOI Division, will have a publication later this year with state and national data on work-related injuries and illnesses for 2003. For more information, or a copy of the publication, contact Leon Cornett at the Arkansas Department of Labor at (501) 682-4542 or write to 10421 West Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205.

Table 3. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work (1) by selected characteristics and industry division.

Arkansas-Private industry

Characteristics	1996 Private Industry (2)	1997 Private Industry (2)	1998 Private Industry (2)	1999 Private Industry (2)	2000 Private Industry (2)	2001 Private Industry(2)	2002 Private Industry(2)	2003 Private Industry(2)
Total Cases	16,713	16,240	15,635	14,672	14,672	12,678	12,154	11,110
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sex:								
Men	63.2	64.5	66.0	62.6	64.8	69.9	68.5	64.5
Women	36.0	34.9	33.0	36.4	34.2	29.0	31.0	35.1
Age:								
Under 14 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
14 to 15 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
16 to 19 years	4.6	4.7	3.0	4.9	3.7	1.9	3.1	5.0
20 to 24 years	13.1	13.4	12.4	13.2	13.5	12.3	9.1	10.8
25 to 34 years	30.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	28.2	23.6	24.3	23.0
35 to 44 years	29.9	26.8	28.5	27.5	27.3	30.4	29.3	27.2
45 to 54 years	14.5	17.1	18.8	17.7	17.4	18.6	20.4	23.6
55 to 64 years	6.6	8.6	7.6	8.0	8.4	10.3	12.8	9.1
65 years & over	0.6	0.7	2.2	1.2	1.2	2.7	1.0	1.4
Occupation:								
Managerial	4.6	5.0	4.0	4.3	5.3	3.8	3.5	
Technical,sales administrative support	12.4	13.5	10.6	12.1	9.9	12.5	11.1	
Service	14.1	15.9	15.6	17.7	14.0	12.0	19.0	
Farming,forestry,fishing	2.4	2.5	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.7	
Precision production, craft, repair	14.5	14.2	15.6	11.6	17.3	18.2	13.9	
Operators,fabricators laborers	52.0	48.7	51.0	51.9	50.7	51.2	49.8	
Length of service with employer:								
Less than 3 months	15.2	17.6	16.6	20.9	20.0	13.9	15.0	14.9
3 to 11 months	25.8	20.0	21.9	20.9	22.4	22.2	24.8	22.7
1 to 5 years	26.6	30.1	30.4	29.4	33.2	33.1	37.0	35.1
More than 5 years	20.4	26.3	21.9	21.3	20.3	24.0	22.6	26.8
Not reported	12.0	6.0	9.3	7.5	4.1	6.7	0.5	
Race or ethnic origin:								
White only	62.7	64.3	63.3	64.0	69.9	65.0	59.6	61.8
Black only	10.4	11.8	10.6	11.5	13.9	14.0	15.2	12.5
Hispanic or Latino only	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.4	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.5
Asian only	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native only	3.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.5
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander only								
Multi-race							0.2	
Not reported	21.8	21.2	23.7	21.4	12	17	19.6	21.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work(1) by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division.

Arkansas-Private industry

Characteristics	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private
	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry(2)	Industry(2)	Industry(2)
Total Cases	16,713	16,240	15,635	14672.0	14280.0	12678.0	12154.0	11110.0
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nature, injury or illness:								
Sprains, strains	47.5	52.1	44.7	45.6	46.9	44.9	44.9	41.0
Bruises, contusions	9.2	10.3	10.5	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.6	5.4
Cuts, lacerations	9.0	5.1	6.6	7.5	6.0	6.1	7.5	5.9
Fractures	6.5	7.4	7.3	9.2	7.1	9.7	8.1	8.6
Heat burns	1.7	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.6	1.1	2.8	2.1
Carpal tunnel syndrome	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.3
Tendonitis	1.5	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	
Chemical burns	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.5	1.4	1.3
Amputations	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.3
Multiple injuries	3.0	2.3	3.5	3.0	4.0	4.1	2.2	3.2
Part of body affected:								
Head	5.4	5.8	8.0	6.6	6.2	6.7	7.1	6.7
Eye	3.1	3.9	4.7	3.1	4.3	3.5	3.4	2.9
Neck	1.1	1.4	2.9	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.1	6.3
Trunk	42.6	44.7	35.6	35.5	39.7	38.0	37.1	32.6
Shoulder	4.5	5.7	5.1	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.3	7.2
Back	32.2	32.9	24.2	24.3	27.3	25.7	24.6	20.1
Upper Extremities	22.5	20.4	21.3	21.4	21.8	20.8	20.7	20.1
Wrist	4.7	3.6	4.0	4.8	3.8	5.1	5.2	4.9
Hand (except finger)	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.5	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.7
Finger	8.8	6.8	7.3	7.1	8.4	7.6	7.2	5.9
Lower Extremities	19.5	20.9	23.8	24.8	19.0	19.3	22.6	22.8
Knee	7.4	9.2	8.4	10.7	6.4	6.4	6.9	10.0
Foot (except toe)	3.1	3.7	4.2	4.7	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.9
Toe	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.8	0.9	1.0	1.5	
Body Systems	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.8
Multiple Parts	7.9	6.0	7.3	9.6	10.9	11.8	8.8	9.7

See footnotes at end of last table.

Table 5. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work(1) by selected injury or illness characteristics and industry division.

Arkansas-Private industry

Characteristics	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private	Private
	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry (2)	Industry(2)	Industry(2)	Industry(2)
Total Cases	16,713	16,240	15,635	14,672	14,280	12,678	12,154	11,110
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Source of								
Injury,illness:								
Chemicals, chemical products	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.2	1.0	1.4	2.5	2.9
Containers	14.2	14.4	11.5	12.2	11.6	10.2	11.0	9.3
Furniture and fixtures	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.4	3.3	2.4
Machinery	9.1	8.2	8.7	7.1	9.7	8.0	7.2	7.4
Parts and materials	11.3	12.0	13.3	11.3	13.7	11.9	10.1	9.0
Worker motion or position	20.5	22.5	21.5	23.7	20.4	20.3	21.6	17.0
Floors,walkways,ground surfaces	12.4	14.0	12.6	15.4	14.2	15.1	16.4	17.7
Tools, instruments, equipment	5.4	3.9	5.4	4.9	5.8	5.4	5.8	5.0
Vehicles	7.3	6.8	8.3	7.7	7.7	9.8	9.1	11.7
Health care patients	7.3	6.0	5.3	3.9	4.1	5.7	3.5	6.6
Event or Exposure								
Contact with objects,equipment	26.3	26.3	27.9	25.2	25.6	26.5	24.4	22.2
Struck by object	12.9	14.2	15.7	13.3	13.2	12.8	11.8	8.8
Struck against object	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.7	6.3	6.1	6.2
Caught in equipment, object	6.6	6.2	6.5	6.1	6.0	6.9	5.8	6.5
Fall to lower level	4.2	4.8	3.2	3.9	5.6	6.1	4.3	4.1
Fall to same level	10.4	9.9	10.3	12.7	10.3	10.9	12.4	14.6
Slips, trips, loss of balance without fall	4.4	5.1	3.7	5.6	3.9	2.8	3.3	3.2
Overexertion	29.2	26.6	24.3	23.2	27.8	24.2	21.4	21.4
overexertion in lifting	20.3	19.4	17.9	15.2	17.7	15.4	14.4	13.8
Repetitive motion	3.3	2.1	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.0
Exposure to harmful substances	4.2	4.1	5.3	5.3	4.4	4.4	7.7	6.9
Transportation accidents	3.4	4.1	5.2	4.0	4.4	5.8	5.9	8.7
Fires and explosions	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.2	--	0.6	0.2
Assaults,violent acts by person	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.8

(1) Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work, with or without restricted work activity.

(2) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

(3) Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal industries.

Note: Dashes indicate data that are not available or data that do not meet publication guidelines.

Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, percentages may not add up to 100.

Table 10. Percent distribution of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work ¹ by selected occupations and number of days away from work, 2003

Arkansas—private industry

Occupation	Percent of cases involving								Median days away from work
	Total cases	1 day	2 days	3 to 5 days	6 to 10 days	11 to 20 days	21 to 30 days	31 days or more	
Total [11,110 cases]	100.0	14.0	11.6	20.8	12.4	11.2	5.3	24.8	7
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	100.0	4.4	5.1	19.1	6.6	8.1	5.9	51.5	37
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.....	100.0	15.6	6.7	27.8	12.2	15.6	6.7	14.4	5
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants.....	100.0	6.7	11.1	20.0	31.1	6.7	--	22.2	7
Cashiers.....	100.0	--	--	24.4	--	56.1	--	--	19
Retail salespersons.....	100.0	31.6	13.2	13.2	10.5	--	--	26.3	3
Construction laborers.....	100.0	11.5	15.4	--	--	--	7.7	50.0	27
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses.....	100.0	13.0	--	17.4	26.1	--	--	17.4	7
Registered nurses.....	100.0	18.2	9.1	27.3	18.2	--	--	22.7	4
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners.....	100.0	--	27.8	27.8	11.1	--	--	22.2	4
Cooks, restaurant.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
Telecommunications line installers and repairers.....	100.0	33.3	--	33.3	--	--	--	--	3
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	64.3	--	--	16
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers.....	100.0	35.7	--	--	--	--	--	14.3	3
Truck drivers, light or delivery services.....	100.0	14.3	--	--	--	--	--	28.6	6
Home health aides.....	100.0	--	15.4	15.4	--	--	--	--	5
Automotive service technicians and mechanics.....	100.0	--	--	38.5	--	15.4	--	--	5
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics.....	100.0	--	41.7	--	33.3	--	--	--	6
Industrial machinery mechanics.....	100.0	41.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Cooks, fast food.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Maids and housekeeping cleaners.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Stock clerks and order fillers.....	100.0	--	18.2	--	--	--	--	36.4	14
Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse.....	100.0	45.5	--	18.2	--	--	--	18.2	2
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers.....	100.0	--	--	--	18.2	--	--	--	7
First-line supervisors/managers.....	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating State agencies.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.